



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

MAY 14 2008

CECW-PB

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, South Pacific Division (CESPD-DE)

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 3118 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA 2007) – Middle Rio Grande Restoration, New Mexico

1. Section 3118 of WRDA 2007 directs the Secretary to select and carry out restoration projects in the Middle Rio Grande Basin from Cochiti Dam to the headwaters of Elephant Butte Reservoir in the State of New Mexico. Projects are defined as those that will produce, consistent with other Federal programs, projects, and activities, immediate and substantial ecosystem restoration and recreation benefits. In carrying out this program, the Secretary is to consult with, and consider the activities being carried out by, the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program and the Bosque Improvement Group of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative. A copy of Section 3118 is enclosed.

2. The ongoing Middle Rio Grande Bosque, New Mexico, feasibility study is scheduled for completion in FY 2009. This study is being performed using budgeted General Investigation funds and should continue to follow the normal planning process per ER 1105-2-100. The Albuquerque District should ensure that the feasibility study recommended plan is developed in consultation with and in consideration of the activities of the named Collaborative Program and the Bosque Initiative, per Section 3118(c). In addition, the feasibility study should include an evaluation of the appropriateness of using Section 3118 as an implementation vehicle for the recommended plan.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Stockton".

STEVEN L. STOCKTON, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

Encl

AUTHORIZING LANGUAGE, WRDA 2007

SEC. 3118. MIDDLE RIO GRANDE RESTORATION, NEW MEXICO.

(a) RESTORATION PROJECTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “restoration project” means a project that will produce, consistent with other Federal programs, projects, and activities, immediate and substantial ecosystem restoration and recreation benefits.

(b) PROJECT SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select and shall carry out restoration projects in the Middle Rio Grande from Cochiti Dam to the headwaters of Elephant Butte Reservoir in the State of New Mexico.

(c) LOCAL PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall consult with, and consider the activities being carried out by—

- (1) the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program; and
- (2) the Bosque Improvement Group of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 to carry out this section.